# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2540
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
Discrimination in Universities
Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has noticed the cases of caste-based discrimination in universities in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the total number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry to ensure that students are not subjected to caste-based discrimination in universities in the country and if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c) : Data on caste-based discrimination is not centrally maintained.Universities are autonomous bodies which are governed by their own Acts and Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations made thereunder. The Acts of the respective universities, stipulate that the university shall not discriminate on grounds of caste, religion, etc. Universities are competent to take all administrative decisions including to prevent all kinds of harassment and discriminationagainst any section of students.
The Government of India and University Grants Commission (UGC) have issued several instructionto all State Governments and Centrally Funded Educational Institutions to curb discrimination of any kind. Major initiatives undertaken are as below:
In order to check discrimination and harassment of any sections of students and to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism, the UGC has formulated UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012 and UGC (Grievance Redressal), Regulations, 2012. These Regulations intend to give effect in letter and spirit to the provisions of the Constitution and other statutory provisions and policies for prevention of discrimination on the grounds of caste and to safeguard the interests of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Regulations also seek to provide for advancement of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students through setting up of Equal Opportunity Cells in each Higher Educational Institution. The UGC also provides financial assistance to establish the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy to support focused research on the issue of social exclusion related to dalits, tribal and religious minorities.In order to make the universities/colleges more responsive to the needs and constraints of the disadvantaged social groups. The UGC is giving financial assistance to all eligible Colleges/Universities to establish Equal Opportunity Centres. The aim and objective of this Scheme is to oversee the effective implementation of policies and programmes for disadvantaged groups, to provide guidance and counselling with respect to academic, financial, social and other matters and to enhance the diversity within the campus. UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 provide for elimination of ragging in all its forms from universities. The UGC has a Nationwide 24X7 anti ragging helpline for receiving and tracking complaints of ragging and for various consequential actions in respect of fresh complaints.
UGC has also approved establishment of 126 SC/STs cells in various Universities with a view to safeguarding the interest of SC/ST students.
Other initiatives also include provisions of Anti Discriminatory faculty advisors for SC/ST students who look into their problems and advise accordingly, appointment of Student Counsellors to address personal, academic, psychological and family related problems, providing sports and extra curriculum activities, setting up counsellingcentres, provision of anxiety helpline, and setting up disciplinary action committee to take urgent action in case of any complaints reported ragging, discrimination based on caste, creed, religion and gender etc.
A Conference of Vice Chancellors of Central Universities was held on

February 18, 2016 whereby all the Vice Chancellors and senior Officers of the Central Universities have been asked to be more vigilant & put a proper system in place to ensure that the students from these categories are not put to any disadvantage/ hardship. The Vice Chancellors have inter-alia agreed to appoint Anti-Discrimination Officer as provided in UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012.

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